

# Transportation & Infrastructure



Above: Old Pearsall Road was recently reconstructed to provide additional lanes, bicycle amenities, sidewalks and bus pull-outs.

### Introduction

The United Southwest Communities is spliced by several major thoroughfares and Loop 410. Portions of the area are served by VIA Metropolitan Transit. Much of the community infrastructure dates from an earlier era of San Antonio development and facilities have not been upgraded to meet modern demands.

This chapter of the Community Plan focuses on the community's goals, objectives and action steps for new and improved infrastructure, such as improving major thoroughfares in the area, providing adequate drainage and neighborhood access points. This chapter also considers transportation systems management including traffic operations, mass transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Additionally, there is an objective to make the area roadways more attractive through landscaping, public art and coloration, as has been implemented elsewhere in San Antonio.

*"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."*

- Benjamin Franklin

# United Southwest Communities Plan



Medina Base Road

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Mid (3 to 5 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Proposed Partnerships:** COSA Public Works, TxDOT, MPO, City Council Office, Neighborhood Action Department—TIF Unit

**Funding Sources:** Volunteer/Minimal to study; COSA Bond Program, Advanced Transportation District, TIRZ funds, MPO Metro Mobility Program to construct



Old Pearsall Road

**Timeline:** Mid (3 to 5 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Public Works, TxDOT, MPO

**Funding Sources:** COSA Capital Improvement Program, COSA Bond Program, TxDOT, MPO Metro Mobility Fund, Advanced Transportation District

## Goal 3 - Improve the Infrastructure

Improve streets, drainage and circulation in the community.

### Objective 3.1: Improve Major Thoroughfares

Expand major thoroughfares in the area to accommodate the increasing traffic demands.

#### Action Steps:

**3.1.1** Work with City Engineers to review the situation on Medina Base Road, Ray Ellison Boulevard and Covell Road and advocate for improvements as needed.

- *Evaluate the need to widen the roads and provide drainage (see also Action Steps 3.2.3 and 3.3.1 below).*
- *Contact Public Works Capital Programs Division to request cost estimates.*
- *Investigate use of Homeland Security funds since Medina Base Road provides access between Lackland AFB and the Lackland Annex .*
- *Two existing TIRZ (Heathers Cove and Ridge Stone/La Ventana) have committed a portion of their financing to improve Medina Base Road*
- *Covell Road is targeted by the Public Works Department as a perspective partnership with the Covell Gardens Landfill through the construction of a new road on CPS property.*

**3.1.2** Work with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to identify ways to improve Old Pearsall Road (F.M 2536) from Loop 410 to Loop 1604 as was done inside Loop 410.

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**3.1.3** Propose using funds from surrounding TIRZ projects to pay for street and drainage improvements to Medina Base Road, Ray Ellison Blvd., Covell Road and locations identified in Table 1.

- *Consider redrawing boundaries of Hallie Heights TIRZ to include additional property along Ray Ellison Blvd.*

**3.1.4** Conduct route study, environmental assessment and preliminary design of Loop 410 improvements from Culebra to IH-35 South.

- *Project has commenced.*
- *Preliminary plans include widening the roadway to four mainlanes in each direction and wider frontage roads and improving interchanges at Interstate 35, Highway 90 and at Highway 151.*
- *Preliminary cost estimate is \$311 million.*
- *As the project moves forward updates will be included on the Transguide website.*

### Objective 3.2: Drainage

Address drainage issues throughout the community.

#### Action Steps:

**3.2.1** Request a drainage study for Five Palms between Military Drive and Old Pearsall Road and for Medina Base Road between Five Palms and Palm Valley (see also 3.1.1 above) as identified in Table 1.

- *Review efficiency of on-site detention facilities for the Lackland Heights subdivision.*
- *Contact the Public Works for a consulting expert.*

**3.2.2** Develop estimate of probable cost and identify funding source to improve drainage along Five Palms.

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Long (6 + years)

**Lead Partner:** Neighborhood Action Department—TIF Unit

**Partners:** TIRZ developers, COSA Public Works, City Council Office

**Funding Sources:** Self financed through TIF mechanism

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Mid (3 to 5 years)

**Lead Partner:** TxDOT

**Partners:** TxDOT, City of San Antonio, FHWA

**Funding Sources:** State and Federal for design and construction; COSA for right of way and utility relocation



*A freeway project in Childress, TX*

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partners:** COSA Public Works, City Council Office, SAWS, Neighborhood Action—TIF Unit

**Funding Sources:** Volunteer/Minimal

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Mid Long (3 to 5 years)

**Lead Partner:** COSA Public Works

**Partners:** Neighborhood Action Department—TIF Unit, City Council Office

**Funding Sources:** General Obligation Bonds, Stormwater Revenue Bonds

# United Southwest Communities Plan

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Mid (3 to 5 years)

**Lead Partners:** Public Works

**Partnerships:** Neighborhood Action Department—TIF Unit, City Council Office

**Funding Sources:** General Obligation Bonds, Stormwater Revenue Bonds, TIRZ Mechanism

**3.2.3** Identify funding source to replace Medina Base Road low water crossing.

- *Cost estimate is \$479,000*
- *Investigate use of TIRZ funds.*

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Long (6 + years)

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** AACOG, COSA Public Works, City Public Service, Property Owners, City Arborist, TxDOT, Neighborhood Action

**Funding Sources:** AACOG, CPS, TxDOT Green Ribbon funds, TxDOT enhancement program



Wurzbach Parkway

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** TxDOT, COSA Public Works-Design Enhancement, COSA Cultural Affairs

**Funding Sources:** COSA Design Enhancement, TxDOT Enhancement

## Objective 3.3: Aesthetically Attractive Roadways

Enhance and beautify community roadways.

### Action Steps:

**3.3.1** Plant native trees along area roadways that have survivability.

- *Protect and maintain trees, shrubbery and natural features should Medina Base Road become widened.*
- *Work with the Public Works Department to identify safe placement of landscaping that does not create visual obstructions or hazards close to moving traffic.*

**3.3.2** Request that all TxDOT projects include art and distinctive coloring.

- *Limited funding is available for this and can be identified on a location/project specific basis.*
- *TxDOT is currently developing an aesthetics master plan that will include art and distinctive coloring themes for San Antonio.*

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### Objective 3.4: Neighborhood Access Points

Investigate techniques to create additional access points to area neighborhoods.

#### Action Steps:

**3.4.1** Work with property owner to seek extension of Palm Valley to Ray Ellison.

**3.4.2** Investigate additional access points, land ownership and jurisdiction for Sky Harbour, Indian Creek and Hidden Cove including the major thoroughfare plan alignment for the extension of Ray Ellison Blvd to Cassin Road.

- *The community requests not to link Sky Harbour to Indian Creek/Hidden Cove as a solution to the problem of external access nor linking Indian Cove/Hidden Creek to Hillside Acres.*

#### Major Thoroughfare Plan

*It is the responsibility of the subdivider to dedicate the right of way and construct the road in cases where a major thoroughfare plan traverses a property.*

### Goal 4—Traffic Control

Improve the safety of traffic operations.

### Objective 4.1: Traffic Control

Develop a traffic control plan.

#### Action Steps:

**4.1.1** Install traffic light at Medina Base Road and Palm Valley.

- *According to the Public Works Department traffic conditions warrant the installation of the signal. Installation will occur upon securing funding.*
- *Neighborhood Action Department has identified TIRZ funds for this traffic light.*

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partners:** Property Owners, , COSA Development Services, Public Works, Neighborhood Action Department—TIF Unit

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partners:** COSA Asset Management, Development Services, Public Works – Traffic, Area Neighborhood Associations, property owners, Neighborhood Action Department—TIF Unit

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer



*Clandestine access points that have been created behind some neighborhoods are discouraged.*

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** COSA Public Works—Traffic Engineering

**Partners:** Neighborhood Action Department—TIF Unit

**Funding Sources:** Self financed through TIF Mechanism



# United Southwest Communities Plan

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years)

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** TxDOT, COSA Public Works—Traffic Engineering

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years)

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** SAPD, COSA Public Works—Traffic Engineering

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

**4.1.2** Request traffic study for the intersections of Loop 410 with Medina Base Road and Loop 410 with Ray Ellison Blvd to examine and safety concerns due to the frequency of collisions.

- *TxDOT is currently studying these intersections as part of the Southwest Loop 410 expansion project, see Action Step 3.1.4*

**4.1.3** Request road survey at Covell Road at Ray Ellison regarding stop sign observance through Traffic Engineering. Increase officer presence during high traffic time. Utilize additional traffic elements to control traffic such as a flashing red light.



*Traffic circles can be used to calm traffic within neighborhoods*

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years)

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Public Works—Traffic Engineering

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

**4.1.4** Request a traffic engineering study to determine the need for left turn arrows at Old Sky Harbor at Old Pearsall Road and the exit for Miller's Pond due to the realignment of the park entrance.

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years)

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Public Works—Traffic Engineering, SAPD

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

**4.1.5** Request increased enforcement to address speeding rather than using speed humps.

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**4.1.6** Investigate the City of San Antonio School Flasher program and research the timing of flashers for the three different school districts.

- *The decision to alter the times outside of the standard 7-9am and 2-4pm periods is based on start/end times for the schools, proximity to school zones without flashing beacons and proximity to school zones with different schedules.*



Solar powered school zone flasher

### Goal 5: Multi-modal Transportation System

Improve transportation options for mass transit, pedestrians and bicyclists.

#### Objective 5.1: Mass Transit

Develop a community transit system.

##### Action Steps:

**5.1.1** Work with VIA to establish new routes to serve the community

- *Request service to schools before, during and after school hours and on Saturdays.*
- *Request a 24 hour/day bus route along Old Pearsall Road with 30 minute headways.*
- *Extend VIA service south on Old Pearsall Road from SW Military to serve the future commercial development at Loop 410 and southward to Loop 1604*

**5.1.2** Become familiar with VIA's Service Standards for locating amenities at their stops. Request use of graffiti resistant materials for stops qualifying for amenities.

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partners:** COSA Public Works—Neighborhood Traffic, School Districts, PTAs, Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer



Bus Shelter on Five Palms at Ray Ellison

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Long (6 + years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partners:** VIA, School Districts, PTAs

**Funding Sources:** Advanced Transportation District

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partners:** VIA

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

# United Southwest Communities Plan

**Timeline:** Immediate

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Public Works, City Council Office, Property Owners

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Long (6 + years)

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Public Works, MPO Pedestrian Mobility Task Force, City Council Office, Property Owners, Neighborhood Action Department– TIF Unit

**Funding Sources:** Neighborhood Accessibility Mobility Program, CDBG, TIF Mechanism, MPO, TxDOT, Safe Routes to School

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Long (6 + years)

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Public Works, MPO Bicycle Mobility Task Force, City Council Office, Neighborhood Action Department– TIF Unit

**Funding Sources:** Neighborhood Accessibility Mobility Program, CDBG, MPO, TxDOT, Advanced Transportation District

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Public Works, MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Task Forces, SAPD

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

## Objective 5.2: Sidewalk Network

Develop a sidewalk network

### Action Steps:

**5.2.1** Inventory locations needing sidewalks and curbs (see Table 1).

**5.2.2** Request installation of sidewalks in locations where they are missing (see Table 1).

- *TIRZ funds are available for locations near or within TIRZ Projects.*



*Bicycle lane along Old Pearsall Road*

## Objective 5.3: Bicycle Facilities

Develop a bicycle facilities plan.

### Action Steps:

**5.3.1** Create bicycle facilities (lanes, routes and/or paths) throughout the community, including signage.

- *Bicycle facilities could be partially accomplished for Medina Base Road as part of the TIRZ contributions.*

**5.3.2** Promote education, enforcement and encouragement of bicycle and pedestrian mobility.



## Transportation & Infrastructure

**Table 1. Transportation and Infrastructure Issues Identified in Community Meetings**

Street	From	To	Community Comments / Public Works Comments	Action Step
Alpine Valley	Royal Valley	Bright Valley	No sidewalks / <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Apple Valley	Cedar Valley	Ray Ellison	Sidewalk on only one side of the street/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Apple Valley	Walnut Valley	Cedar Valley	No sidewalks / <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Birch Valley	Apple Valley	Walnut	No sidewalks / <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Breeze Valley	Glade Valley	Dead End	No sidewalks / <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Bright Valley	Alpine Valley	Loop 410	No sidewalks / <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Brook Valley	Elm Valley	Ray Ellison	No sidewalks / <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Brook Valley	Ray Ellison	Five Palms	Sidewalk on only one side of the street / <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Clear Valley	Elm Valley	Dead End	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Clegg	Farr	Godek	No curbs or sidewalks./ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Covel Road	Ray Ellison	Medio Creek	Dangerous curve	3.1.1, 4.1.3
Covel Road	Ray Ellison	Old Pearsall	Landfill traffic and bad drainage has deteriorated roadway / <i>This project is targeted by the Public Works Department as a perspective partnership with the Covel Gardens Landfill through the construction of a new road on CPS property.</i>	3.1.1, 3.1.3
Cozy Valley	Glade Valley	Dead End	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Dawn Valley	Elm Valley	Dead End	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Echo Valley	Elm Valley	Dead End	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Elm Valley	Apple Valley	Myrtle Valley	No sidewalks / <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Elm Valley	at	Apple Valley	Ponding of intersection/ <i>This was addressed by Public Works in a Full-Depth Reclamation project completed May 5, 2005.</i>	3.1.3
Farr	Clegg	Dempsey	No curbs or sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Fedora	Clegg	Dempsey	No curbs or sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Fern Valley	Elm Valley	Dead End	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Fir Valley	Walnut Valley	Apple Valley	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Five Palms	Military Drive	Old Pearsall	Drainage study requested. Sidewalks requested/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2

# United Southwest Communities Plan

Table 1. (Continued)

Street	From	To	Community Comments / Public Works Comments	Action Step
Five Palms	Old Pearsall	Gray Buffalo	Roadway is beyond design capacity.	3.4.2
Gavilan	Old Pearsall	Dempsey	No curbs or sidewalks / <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Glade Valley	Alpine Valley	Five Palms	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Godek	Van	Clegg	No curbs or sidewalks / <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Golden Valley	Walnut Valley	Apple Valley	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Gwenda Lea	Van	Clegg	No curbs or sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
	Dempsey	Dead End		
Happy Valley	Glade Valley	Dead End	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Haven Valley	Loop 410	Alpine Valley	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Hayden	Old Pearsall	Dempsey	No curbs or sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Hazel Valley	Walnut Valley	Apple Valley	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Hillburn	Old Pearsall	Dempsey	No curbs or sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Lark Valley	Apple Valley	Brook Valley	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Loop 410	at	Medina Base Road	Intersection safety concern / <i>TxDOT study has begun</i>	4.1.2
Medina Base Road	at	Palm Valley	Stoplight requested / <i>Project will be funded through the TIRZ</i>	4.1.1
Medina Base Road	Five Palms	Palm Valley	Flooding of roadway	3.2.3
Medina Base Road	Old Pearsall	Ray Ellison	No curbs or sidewalks. High traffic volumes. / <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	3.1.1
Mill Valley	Lark Valley	Pine Valley	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Moon Valley	Medina Base	Ray Ellison	Drainage problem.	3.1.3
Old Pearsall	at	Hayden	Bus shelter requested on northbound side.	5.1.2
Old Pearsall	East of the Medina River	Dragon Lane	Sidewalks requested, including over the Medina River Bridge.	5.2.2
Old Sky Harbor	Fishers Bend	Port of Call	Bus shelter requested on northbound side.	5.1.2
Old Sky Harbor	Fishers Bend	Boston Harbor	Additional lighting requested	9.2.6

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**Table 1. (Continued)**

Street	From	To	Community Comments / Public Works Comments	Action Step
Old Sky Harbor	Old Pearsall	Fishers Bend	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Old Sky Harbor	at	Old Pearsall	Left turn arrows requested for Old Sky Harbor and the exit from Miller's Pond.	4.1.4
Pine Valley	Mill Valley	Brook Valley	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Placid Valley	Pine Valley	Dead End	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Portside	Fishers Bend	Bow Sprit	Potholes and base failures / Maintenance of this section is being considered for future funding consideration.	3.1.3
Quiet Valley	Pine Valley	Dead End	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Ray Ellison	Apple Valley	Loop 410	No curbs or sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	3.1.1, 5.2.2
Ray Ellison	at	Apple Valley	Ponding of intersection	3.1.1, 3.1.3
Ray Ellison	at	Brook Valley	Ponding of intersection	3.1.1, 3.1.3
Ray Ellison	at	Covel Road	Intersection safety concern. Drainage problem along curve.	3.1.1, 3.1.3
Ray Ellison	Old Pearsall	Five Palms	Traffic volume near South San campus.	3.1.1, 3.1.3
Robert Glenn	Dragon Lane	Loop 1604	No sidewalks or drainage provided.	3.2.1
Rose Valley	Spur Valley	Dead End	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Royal Valley	Apple Valley	Brook Valley	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Sherry	Van	Clegg	No curbs or sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
	Dempsey	Dead End		
Sleepy Valley	Glade Valley	Dead End	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Spur Valley	Indian Valley	Rose Valley	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Van	Godek	Hayden	No curbs or sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
Walnut Valley	Hazel Valley	Apple Valley	No sidewalks/ <i>Potential NAMP or CDBG project.</i>	5.2.2
War Cloud	Rain Dance	Running Horse	Substandard bridge over Indian Creek / <i>Public Works is investigating.</i>	3.1.3

*Note: Improvements suggested herein may require further study to determine feasibility/appropriateness.*

